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Message Text

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----------029574 010851Z /15
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CPRS, RO

SUBJECT: PROPERTY CLAIMS OF U.S. CITIZENS: (1) MARIA GROVU,
(2) MARIA VASU AKA SOFARIU

REF: BUCHAREST 5009

1. DEPARTMENT CONTACTED MRS. RALPH KLEINPETER, DAUGHTER OF MARIA GROVU, TO SEEK ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED BY EMBASSY.

2. MRS. KLEINPETER AND HUSBAND WERE IN ROMANIA IN JUNE AND VISITED NOUL ROMAN. THEY INQUIRED AT CITY HALL ABOUT GROVU PROPERTY AND WERE TOLD THAT PROPERTY IS STILL REGISTERED IN NAMES OF GEORGE AND MARIA GROVU. THEY WERE ALSO TOLD THAT GROVU WOULD RECEIVE COMPENSATION, AND THAT EMBASSY WOULD BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE MATTER. CLIMATE FOR A SETTLEMENT THUS APPEARS GOOD.
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3. MRS. KLEINPETER SAYS THAT BUILDING DOES NOT HAVE AN ADDRESS, BUT IS EASILY IDENTIFIABLE, IT IS A BRICK BARN AND THE LARGEST BUILDING IN THE SMALL TOWN OF NOUL ROMAN. BUILDING SHOULD BE IDENTIFIABLE FROM DEED FOR LAND ON WHICH IT IS LOCATED. EMBASSY HAS A COPY OF THIS DEED. TAXES HAVE BEEN PAID THROUGH 1975, ACCORDING TO KLEINPETER.

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4. MRS. KLEINPETER HAS NO IDEA WHY GROVU CLAIM MAY HAVE BECOME CONFUSED WITH CLAIM OF MARIA VASU AKA SOFARIU. SHE DOES KNOW A MARIA SOFARIU FROM A NEIGHBOTING TOWN IN ROMANIA, NOW A RESIDENT OF CLEVELAND, WHO HAS A CLAIM FOR PROPBRTY IN HER (SOFARIU'S) TOWN.

5. DEPARTMENT CONTACTED VIRGIL STANCIU, SON OF MARIA SOFARIU (NEE VASU), REGARDING SOFARIU CLAIM. STANCIU HAS TWO DOCUMENTS OF PROPERTY REGISTRATION, WHICH HE SENT TO EMBASSY NOVEMBER 18, 1977. 1953 DOCUMENT GIVES MARIA VASU 3/4 OWNDERSHIP OF PROPERTY AND GIVES 1/4 OF PROPERTY TO HER STEPMOTHER (SINCE DECEASED). 1977 DOCUMENT INDICATES PROPERTY IS REGISTERED IN NAME OF HER UNCLE, IOAN VASU, AND GRANDFATHER, IRIMIE VASU. BOTH WERE DECEASED BEFORE 1953. PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU HAVE COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS. IF NOT, DEPARTMENT WILL SEND COPIES, WHICH IT HAS REQUESTED FROM STANCIU.

6. STANCIU ALSO HAS LETTER FROM COUSIN IN ROMANIA DATED FEBRUARY 6, 1977, IN WHICH COUSIN STATES HE HAS LEARNED FROM AUTHORITIES IN SIBU THAT 19,000 LEI HAVE BEEN PLACED IN BANK AS COMPENSATION. DEPARTMENT WILL FORWARD A COPY OF LETTER WHEN IT RECEIVES IF FROM STANCIU. STANCIU CLAIMS PROPERTY IS WORTH MORE THAN 19,000 AND CITES OFFER FROM RELATIVES TO PURCHASE FOR 35,000 LEI. EVEN THIS AMOUNT, HE FEELS, IS INADEQUATE.
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7. SOFARIU IS STILL CONSIDERING TRANSFERRING PROPERTY TO RELATIVES RATHER THAN DEMANDING COMPENSATION. (FYI: STANCIU INDICATES THAT RELATIVES WOULD SURREPTITIOUSLY PAY SOFARIU FOR "DONATED" PROPERTY.) THUS, WHILE EMBASSY SHOULD CONTINUE ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH SOFARIU'S TITLE TO PROPERTY, NO CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION SHOULD BE MADE AS OF NOW. VANCE

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